Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 043208
ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043208

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PORG, UNSC, ET, SO

SUBJECT: BRIEFING NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR ON SC CONSIDERATION OF THE HORN

REFERENCE: STATE 042000

FOR MEZVINSKY

1. WE ARE REPEATING TO YOU BY SEPTEL INSTRUCTIONS TO A NUMBER OF POSTS OUTLINING U.S. VIEWS ON POSSIBLE SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF THE OGADEN DISPUTE. OUR HOPE IS THAT YOU WOULD USE THIS INFORMATION TO BRIEF NIGERIAN UN PERM REP HARRIMAN, WHO IS CURRENTLY HEADING NIGERIA'S DELEGATION TO UNHRC.
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2. NIGERIA IS THE PIVOTAL PLAYER IN A WESTERN EFFORT TO PERSUADE AFRICANS TO TAKE THE HORN DISPUTE TO THE SC. NIGERIA IS NOT ONLY THE MOST INFLUENTIAL AFRICAN STATE SERVING ON THE COUNCIL, BUT HAS BEEN GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY BY THE OAU FOR MEDIATING BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA. WE BELIEVE THE SECURITY COUNCIL CAN AND SHOULD BE SUPPORTIVE

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OF OAU EFFORTS, AND IS IN A POSITION TO CONTRIBUTE SUB-
STANTIALLY TOWARD A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

3. EARLIER THIS WEEK AMBASSADOR EASUM DISCUSSED THE
MATTER IN SOME DEPTH WITH FONMIN GARBA IN LAGOS. GARBA
AGREED THE CONFLICT WAS POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE, AND SEEMED
WILLING TO CONSIDER SYMPATHETICALLY SECURITY COUNCIL
ACTION -- BUT ONLY AFTER OAU MEDIATION EFFORTS HAD RUN
THEIR COURSE. (HE WAS AT THAT POINT EXPECTING IN LAGOS
AN ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION WHICH NEVER SHOWED UP.)

4. GARBA AND HIS TOP POLICY MAKERS ARE NOW TRAVELING IN
AFRICA. WE ARE TRYING TO GET TO THEM OUR LATEST THINKING
ON SC ACTION THROUGH OUR EMBASSIES IN MONROVIA AND TRIPOLI.
HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES
IF YOU COULD FULLY BRIEF AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN ON OUR VIEWS
AND REPORT HIS REACTION. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 18 feb 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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